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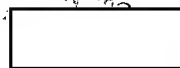
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Vietnam: Electoral law to be promulgated minus controversial article. (Page 4)

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Somali Republic: Abdirascid election signals more leftist trend (Page 6)

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: [The recently adopted presidential electoral law is to be promulgated without a controversial article.]

[According to the embassy, the Directorate at a 9 June meeting unilaterally decided to omit an article which would have required prospective presidential candidates to be "introduced" by at least 30 elected officials. This has the effect of overriding the Provisional National Assembly's refusal to drop the draft article and will strain further relations between the two bodies.]

[The Directorate also has reiterated to the Assembly its wish to have the upper house elections concurrently with the presidential election, now scheduled for 3 September. Two other minor recommendations affecting the mode of voting for upper house members and the eligibility of candidates were also forwarded to the assembly for consideration.]

Military Developments: No major ground engagements have been reported in South Vietnam during the past 48 hours.

Military activity has been confined to widely scattered small unit actions and harassment actions against government administrative centers and military outposts.

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NOTES

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Somali Republic: The election of former prime minister Abdirascid as president for the next six years probably signals an anti-Western trend in Somalia. The 48-year-old Abdirascid, [whose campaign reportedly was financed by Cairo, Moscow, and Peking,] led the republic to accept military and economic assistance from the Soviet Union while prime minister from 1960 to 1964. He also champions Somalia's irredentist claims in neighboring Ethiopia, Kenya, and French Somaliland. Abdirascid is expected, however, to appoint the able Mohamed Egal as his prime minister, a move which some observers believe will lend some balance to the government.

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